

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1188

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach John Calipari and the University of Memphis Tiger basketball team upon the completion of an impressive season.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable group is the University of Memphis men's basketball team, the Tigers, which achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2007-2008 season; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach John Calipari, the Tigers advanced to the NCAA Tournament title game on the strength of an amazing twelve-game winning streak and attained round-by-round victories over Texas-Arlington (87-63), Mississippi State (77-74), Michigan State (92-74), Texas (85-67), and UCLA (78-63); and

WHEREAS, prior to the NCAA Tournament, Memphis put up thirty victories against a single regular season loss and swept the Conference USA regular season and tournament crowns for the third year in a row, posting a perfect 16-0 mark in conference play for the second consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, this year, Memphis returned to the NCAA Final Four for the third time in the program's history, and showed themselves once again to be one of the premier college basketball programs in the nation by playing their way into the final game for the first time since 1973; and

WHEREAS, the 2007-08 Memphis Tigers compiled the best record in team history and established new benchmarks in collegiate basketball, shattering school, regional, and national records; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional team set the NCAA record for most wins in a single season at thirty-eight, placed number one on the all-time NCAA Division I list for most wins in three years with an overall record of 104-10, and compiled the longest winning streak in school history with twenty-six straight wins, all of which combined have created yet another tremendous season for the University of Memphis men's basketball dynasty; and

WHEREAS, other amazing athletic feats and records accomplished by this unbelievably talented team are: NCAA Tournament South Region champion; ranked in all nineteen regular season polls for fifty-eight straight weeks; ranked number one for five straight weeks, which is the longest time in school history; ranked number one or two in the national polls for sixteen straight weeks, the longest streak in school history; had a 10-0 road record for the season; achieved thirty-three straight wins in the C-USA regular season; accumulated forty-two wins in a row in the C-USA; attained a forty-five game winning streak during the regular season; and won forty-seven home court games this season, the most number of home court games in the school's history; and

WHEREAS, the members of this extraordinary team are: Andre Allen; Antonio Anderson; Hashim Bailey; Joey Dorsey, who was named Defensive Player of the Year; Chris Douglas-Roberts, who was named Player of the Year and was a consensus All-America First Team pick; Robert Dozier; Willie Kemp; Doneal Mack; Chance McGrady; Pierre Niles; Jeff Robinson; Derrick Rose, who was named Freshman of the Year and was a consensus National Freshman All-America Team pick; and Shawn Taggart; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers' have utilized the tremendous advantage of the outstanding basketball knowledge and experience of Head Coach John Calipari, who has won a multitude of awards and titles for his exceptional coaching, including the Coach of the Year award; the Naismith National Coach of the Year award, becoming only the second coach to win the award multiple times since its inception in 1987; and recognition as the winningest coach over a three-year period in NCAA Division I history, the winningest coach for a single season in NCAA Division I history, and the second coach in NCAA Division I history to win 400 or more games in his first sixteen years as a collegiate head coach; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers also enjoyed the guidance and expertise of Assistant Coaches Derek Kellogg, Chuck Martin, and John Robic; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Tigers were also aided in their efforts by Coordinator of Basketball Operations Tyrone Weeks, Assistant to the Recruiting Coordinator Shyrone Chatman, Director of Performance Enhancement Richard Hogans, Athletic Trainer Chris Simmons, and Director of Student-Athlete Development/Manager Rod Strickland; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary members of the University of Memphis men's basketball team epitomize all that is good in today's collegiate athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while the greatest ability both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a excellent season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the University of Memphis Tigers for yet another exciting and exceptional basketball season and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the collegiate athletes of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the players, coaches, and staff of the University of Memphis men's basketball team upon the completion of a tremendous 2007-2008 basketball season and extend to them our best wishes for every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.